

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /095 W
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R 281158Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3632

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH, SA
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: NEIL VAN HEERDEN'S COMMENTS ON RHODESIA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA'S AIDE, NEIL VAN HEERDEN, ON JUNE 23 IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON OTHER MATTERS MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS ABOUT RHODESIA. VAN HEERDEN SAID THAT SAG STATEMENTS ON THE PROPOSED ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE WERE NECESSARILY INDIRECT AND VAGUE. HE SAID THAT WE COULD BE ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SAG SUPPORTED ANY SUGGESTION THAT WOULD LEAD TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IN THIS LIGHT, HE COULD NOT SEE ANY REASON WHY THERE SHOULD NOT BE AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS THAT THE BLACK RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WERE CONCERNED WITH SHOWING WEAKNESS; THEY ARE MORE SENSITIVE IN THIS REGARD
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THAN EVEN THE SAG.

2. VAN HEERDEN BELIEVED THAT GETTING ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED TOGETHER WOULD BE AN OCCASION FOR INTER-ACTION AND SOMETHING MIGHT COME OUT OF IT. HE REITERATED THAT NKOMO WAS A CAPABLE LEADER "WITH WHOM WE WORKED IN THE PAST."

EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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